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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIVE INDICTED ON FRAUDULENT IMMIGRATION
DOCUMENT CHARGES**

Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced the indictment and arrest of five foreign nationals on charges related to the use and possession of fraudulent immigration documents. Mohammed Shaukat Jamal, 31, New York, Ashishkumar Gordhanbhai Patel, 32, Brunswick, Georgia, Hemant Kumar Patel, 27, Pooler, Georgia, Yogeshkumar Patel, 30, Brunswick, Georgia, and Sanjaykumar Arvindbhai Patel, 35, Savannah, Georgia, were charged in a six count indictment with conspiracy to make, possess and use fraudulent immigration documents, as well as the possession, use and attempted use of fraudulent immigration documents. The indictment alleges that the defendants, all citizens of India who were illegally in the United States, submitted fraudulent applications for U.S. residency to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office, which would have allowed them to remain and obtain employment in the United States despite their status as illegal aliens. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Ms. Wood praised the efforts of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents which led to the indictment and arrest of the five foreign nationals.

Ms. Wood emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Jeffrey J. Buerstatte and Brian F. McEvoy.

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